

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101867

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EA SUMMARY FOR MAY 4

1. NORTH KOREAN VISITORS TO JAPAN (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE GOJ HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW A SEVEN MAN "PRIVATE" DELEGATION FROM NORTH KOREA TO VISIT JAPAN IN MID-MAY. THE NORTH KOREAN GROUP IS COMING IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE LDP DIET MEMBER HEAD OF A PRO-PYONGYANG JAPANESE DIETMEN'S LOBBY. IT WILL BE LED BY A FORMER NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING BUT OTHER MEMBERS ARE LOW-RANKING. THE NORTH KOREANS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS RENEGOTIATION OF A 1972 NON-GOVERNMENTAL TRADE AGREEMENT AND NEGOTIATION OF PRIVATE FISHING AGREEMENT. A GAIMUSHO OFFICER TOLD EMBASSY TOKYO THAT THE VISIT'S PURPOSE IS SOLELY ECONOMIC AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUP. MORE OB-
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JECTIVELY, THE JAPANESE PRESS IS PLAYING THE EVENT AS THE FIRST NORTH KOREAN "POLITICAL MISSION" ALLOWED TO ENTER JAPAN.

2. ROKG CLOSES YOMIURI OFFICE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ON MAY 4, THE ROK GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN, ONE OF JAPAN'S THREE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, TO CLOSE ITS OFFICE

IN SEOUL, AND BRING HOME ITS CORRESPONDENTS IN KOREA. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TOOK THE ACTION WHEN THE YOMIURI'S EDITOR REFUSED TO DENY THAT HE HAD MADE REMARKS PRAISING KIM IL-SUNG AND HIS REUNIFICATION POLICY BEFORE THE NORTH KOREAN OVERSEAS CULTURAL LIAISON COUNCIL. THE ALLEGED REMARKS WERE BROADCAST OVER PYONGYANG RADIO,(BUT DID NOT APPEAR IN THE YOMIURI). THE CLOSURE COMES AT A TIME WHEN JAPAN AND KOREA ARE ALREADY AT ODDS OVER RATIFICATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT AND THE VISIT TO JAPAN BY A NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION.

3. MARCOS STATE VISIT TO JAPAN: REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES
(CONFIDENTIAL)

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS IN TWO MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA DURING HIS APRIL 25-28 STATE VISIT, PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MARCOS SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH U.S. INTENTIONS IN ASIA, ESPECIALLY SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE REPEATEDLY SOUGHT JAPANESE ASSESSMENT OF U.S. POLICY IN THE AREA AND BETRAYED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE VALUE THAT THE U.S. PLACED ON BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES. MARCOS NOTED THE JAPANESE CONCERN ABOUT U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA AND ASKED IF THE GOJ WAS SIMILARLY WORRIED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT LEAVE THE PHILIPPINES. THE FOREIGN OFFICE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT IN REPLY FUKUDA STUCK TO FORMULATIONS IN THE U.S./JAPAN SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, BUT HIS ANSWERS PROBABLY DID NOT SATISFY MARCOS.

4. THAI DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR LAOS (CONFIDENTIAL)
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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY WONG PHONNIKON LEFT BANGKOK ON MAY 4 AS THP HEAD OF A THAI DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A THAI AID CEREMONY IN VIENTIANE. OUR EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THE THAIS APPEAR TO BE USING A MINOR EVENT AS AN EXCUSE TO SEND ANOTHER DELEGATION TO LAOS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. WONG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO CONTINUE GIVING AID TO LAOS, AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT AMBASSADORS CAN BE EXCHANGED SOON. VANCE

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